

JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 19:1-10



The STORY

Read Luke 19:1-10 about Zacchaeus.

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- Who is this story about? (Zacchaeus.)
- Why did Zacchaeus climb a tree? (He was a short man who wanted to see Jesus.)
- What happened to Zacchaeus? (Jesus changed his heart and came to his house to eat.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Zacchaeus giving away money to the poor. Engage the children by asking:

- Who is in the picture and what is he doing? (Zacchaeus is giving away money to the poor.)
- Why would Zacchaeus be giving away money to the poor? (Prior to meeting Jesus he cheated the poor. Now he is giving the money back.)
- Why would Zacchaeus be happy to be giving money away? (Jesus changed Zacchaeus' heart from a greedy, sinful heart that does not love or follow God to a heart that loves God and wants to follow Him.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Does God change hearts today like He changed Zacchaeus' heart? (Yes, Jesus changes hearts every day.)
- How can Jesus change hearts? (Jesus is God and Jesus came as a man to die on the cross for our sins. When we trust that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, He changes us to be more and more like Him.)
- How do we know Zacchaeus was changed? (He was a man who loved money and would take it from the poor, but he became a man who gave money back to the poor. When Jesus changes our hearts we want to be more like Him and do the kind of works He would do.)

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Jesus makes the connection for us in this story. Jesus tells us, "...today salvation has come to this house." We also learn that it was the "Son of Man," Jesus, who came to "seek and save the lost."

Though it seems that Zacchaeus was trying to draw near to Jesus, it was in fact Jesus who was coming to save Zacchaeus. This salvation is possible because of what Jesus was about to do on the cross. The evidence of a changed heart in this story is obvious: Zacchaeus gave away half of his money.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

